

VIII. CONCLUSION

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. Further, it is submitted that the dependent claims are patentable based on their own merits, in addition to being dependent on novel independent claims. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

1. (Amended) A model train system comprising:

a remote control unit that outputs commands;

a track interface unit that receives the commands; and

a train track layout coupled to the track interface unit; wherein the track interface unit converts the commands into a modulated signal, injects the modulated signal into a power signal so as to form an integrally formed command/power signal, and outputs the [modulated] integrally formed command/power signal to the train track layout.

3. (Amended) [The] A model train system [of claims 1 or 2] comprising:

a remote control unit that outputs commands;

a track interface unit that receives the commands; and

a train track layout coupled to the track interface unit;

wherein the track interface unit converts the commands into a modulated signal and outputs the modulated signal to the train track layout, wherein the modulated signal is a spread spectrum signal.

44. (Amended) A model train system comprising:

a remote control unit for outputting commands;

a track interface unit that receives the commands; and

a train track layout coupled to said track interface unit; whereby (1) the track [train] interface unit processes said commands and outputs the commands to the train track layout, said track interface unit being configured to receive and process data

corresponding to at least one of operating and diagnostic information of a model train located on said train track layout [and (2) the track interface unit provides an acknowledge signal to the remote control unit which indicates that the track interface unit successfully received and processed said command].

56. (Amended) The model train system of claim [44] 110, whereby said acknowledge signal is displayed on said remote control unit.

70. (Amended) A model train system comprising:

a train track layout;

a track interface unit coupled to said train track layout;

[an information appliance coupled to said track interface unit;] and

a model train operating on said train track layout, the model train [providing]

including a circuit configured to provide at least one of diagnostic and operating information to said track interface unit through said train track layout.

71. (Amended) The model train system of claim 70, further comprising an information appliance coupled to said track interface unit, wherein said track interface unit provides said at least one of diagnostic and operating information to said information appliance.

72. (Amended) The model train system of claim 71, wherein said information appliance is configured to upload [uploads] said at least one of said diagnostic and operating information to [the] an Internet.

73. (Amended) The model train system of claims [70, 71,] 71 or 72, wherein said information appliance is a computer.

74. (Amended) The model train system of claim [70] 71, wherein said information appliance is configured to download [downloads] information from [the] an Internet and said downloaded information is provided to said model train through said track interface unit and said train track layout.

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